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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/879,934	06/14/2001	Yasumi Sago	K-1984	4444
7590	04/02/2004		EXAMINER	
Manabu Kanesaka Kanesaka and Takeuchi 1423 Powhatan Street Alexandria, VA 22314			KACKAR, RAM N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1763	

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/879,934	SAGO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ram N Kackar	1763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 29-58 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 29-58 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 29, 31, 33-34, 36-44, 46,48-49 and 51-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mountsier et al (US 5810933) in view of Moslehi (US 5936829).

Mountsier et al disclose an electrostatic chuck (Fig 1 and Col 1 lines 39-54), comprising a dielectric layer (Fig 1-4), chucking electrode (Fig 1-2), temperature control (Col 1 line 41 and Col 8 lines 40-49), chucking power source (Fig 1-14), marginal convex (Fig 11b-78), chucking surface concaves for heat exchange gas (Fig 11b), under pressure (Col 7 line 48), gas distribution concave (Fig 11b –74) which are deeper than heat exchange concaves (Fig 11b), gas distribution concaves formed in coaxial with the center of the stage (Fig 7), gas inlets connected to gas diffusion concaves at positions off the center of the stage (Fig 19a- 82 and Col 13 lines 50-60), the depth of heat exchange concaves being below 40 μm (Col 10 line 65) and the depth of gas diffusion concaves being 700 μm (Col 13 line 14), the contact area being 10% (Col 9 line 42), main body cooling cavity (Fig 3) and a heat conducting layer between dielectric and main body for cooling (Fig 5-54).

Area of gas diffusion concaves is indirectly disclosed to be at least 5% (on a wafer of 200 mm diameter (Col 11 line 37) and diffusion concave width of 0.5 to 2.5 mm (Col 13 line 16) and plan view of Fig 15a to 19 b will yield an estimate of at least 5%).

Mountsier et al disclose radial and circumferential gas diffusion concaves inside an outer circumferential concave, an inner circumferential concave (Fig 17a and 19a – the hexagonal shaped) and several alternative gas distribution structures, but do not explicitly disclose a plurality of inner circumferential concaves.

Moslehi discloses another chuck and discloses a plurality of circumferential concaves (Fig 3) containing gas inlet connected at the crossing of circumferential and radial concave (Fig 3-74).

Since additional inner circumferential concaves is an alternative and equivalent way for distributing heat transfer gas and helps in obtaining better uniformity closer to center as disclosed by Moslehi too, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have additional circumferential concaves.

3 Claims 30, 32, 35, 45, 47 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mountsier et al (US 5810933) in view of Moslehi (US 5936829) as applied to claim Claims 29, 31, 33-34, 36-44, 46 and 48-49 and further in view of Sexton et al (US 6377437).

Mountsier et al do not disclose lift pin provided in gas introduction channel.

Sexton et al disclose cooling gas flowing through lift pin holes (Abstract and Fig 9-46).

Therefore it would have been obvious for one with ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to use gas channel hole for dual purpose of lift pin hole as well as cooling gas channel to make the design simpler and economical.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed 2/19/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that in Mountsier et al all the gas distribution channels 74, 74' extend in the radial direction.

This is not correct since in Fig 11a and b 74' shows a circumferential concave. Similarly alternative distribution disclosed in Fig 17a and b shows inner circumferential concave and in Fig 19a and b an intermediate hexagonal concave (very close to being functionally circular) with gas inlets connected at the crossings.

The applicant has also attacked the references piece meal, arguing against the references of Moslehi and Sexton regarding what they are not relied upon for rejection.

In addition to Mountsier et al, who discloses or fairly suggests plurality of circumferential concaves, the Examiner has cited Moslehi to show in particular, a plurality of inner circumferential concaves in addition to the outer circumferential concave. The way, Moslehi discloses seal around the perimeter to contain gas, is not germane to the issue of inner circumferential concaves and their contribution to uniformity of cooling.

Similarly applicant's arguments against Sexton are not relevant to the limitation of the use of lift pin holes as gas introduction holes.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ram N Kackar whose telephone number is 571 272 1436. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 A.M to 5:P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Mills can be reached on 571 272 1439. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RK

P. Hassanzadl
Primary Examiner
AU1763